

REMARKS

This Response is offered in reply to the office action of May 2, 2008, pursuant to paragraph 1, subparagraph (1) of the office action.

In paragraph 3 of the office action, claims 24, 26, and 27 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In paragraph 2 of the office action, claims 24, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph on the basis that claim 24 recites "a sheet metal layer" in lines 7 and 13 without sufficient antecedent basis.

Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, Applicants have further amended claim 24 in a manner believed to overcome the above Section 112 rejection of claim 24 and thus also claims 26 and 27 and thus to advance prosecution.

In particular, claim 24 has been amended to recite, in combination with the other features set forth, a cylinder head gasket with a gasket plate being at least substantially metallic, said gasket plate comprising one or several sheet metal layers and having several combustion chamber openings, each of said combustion chamber openings having at least one first bead associated therewith and being surrounded by said at least one first bead formed in a sheet metal layer of said one or more sheet metal layers and having a spring rate so as to be elastically deformable in height, wherein for delimiting the elastic deformation of said first bead at least one delimiting device is associated with each of said first beads, said

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delimiting device being close to the respective first bead, surrounding the respective combustion chamber opening and being obtained by deformation of a sheet metal layer of said one or several sheet metal layers (underlining added for emphasis). The amended claim language underlined above is believed to place claim 24 in compliance with Section 112, second paragraph.

Applicants note that the specification supports embodiments wherein the at least one first bead (e.g. sealing bead) and the at least one second bead (e.g. stopper bead) are provided on the same sheet metal layer of a single layer metallic cylinder head gasket and also supports embodiments wherein the at least one first bead (e.g. sealing bead) and the at least one second bead (e.g. stopper bead) are provided on different sheet metal layers of a multilayer metallic cylinder head gasket (see page 10, last paragraph; page 21, penultimate paragraph; as well as page 26, first paragraph of the specification).

Pending claim 24 encompasses these embodiments and complies with Section 112 in all respects. For example, the recitation in pending claim 24 that "each of said combustion chamber openings having at least one first bead associated therewith and being surrounded by said at least one first bead formed in a sheet metal layer of said one or more sheet metal layers" complies with Section 112 when read in view of the entire specification.

The same is true of the recitation that "said delimiting device being close to the respective first bead, surrounding the respective combustion chamber opening and being obtained by deformation of a sheet metal layer of said one or several sheet metal layers" when read in view of the entire specification.

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Applicants therefore request reconsideration of the Section 112 rejection of claims 24, 26 and 27 and allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



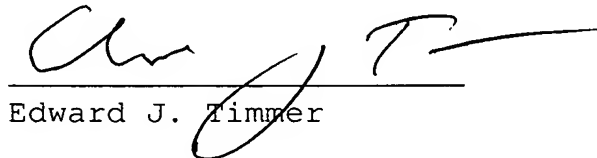
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 2, 2008.

  
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